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International Conference to Spotlight Involvement of Utilities and Energy Service Providers in Solar Electricity Markets

The Annual Conference and Exposition of the **Utility PhotoVoltaic Group (UPVG)** will take place October 2 through 5 in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. The UPVG is a non-profit association of over 160 utilities, electric service providers, equipment manufacturers, and others working to bring solar electric power into the mainstream. This year's conference is titled ***Solar Power: The Customer's Choice.***

Keynote speakers include leaders from the electric and solar equipment manufacturing industry. Marty Mearhoff (Vice President of Renewable Energy and Advanced Technologies for American Electric Power), Angelina Galiteva (Director of Strategic Planning, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power), and Paul Elbert (Executive V.P. of Ventures for Commonwealth Edison) are among a number of representatives from the electric industry that will discuss how their organizations are benefiting from investments in solar power.

Strong demand for clean and renewable electricity, restructuring electricity markets, and significant advances in solar electric technologies are increasing the number of electric utilities and energy service providers are becoming involved with solar power. The conference provides a timely forum to stimulate business activity in this growing market.

Two full days of sessions Tuesday and Wednesday will cover topics such as finance, international markets and policies, incorporating solar technology into buildings, and new business ventures. Several important events are being held at the conference:

Monday

- Quarterly Meeting of the U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roofs Initiative
- "Public Day" Covering Electricity Deregulation and Environmental Issues in Maryland

Tuesday

- Annual Awards Ceremony.

Wednesday Evening and Thursday

- Workshops on Technical and Non-technical Aspects of Connecting to Utility Grids

The U.S. Department of Energy is a Platinum sponsor of this year's Conference. Additional sponsors include the Power Plant Research Program of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, ASE Americas, BP Solar, Constellation Energy Group, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power, GPU Solar, Salt River Project, Arizona Public Service, EBARA Solar, Maryland Energy Administration, PowerLight Corporation, Spire Corporation (NASDAQ: SPIR), TXU, Xantrex, and Ben and Jerry's.

More information on conference events and registration can be found at www.upvg.org/upvg.

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